

## American Heritage Merit Badge

This program is 3 hours long

Please bring to class:

- Pework (if scouts are unable to finish prework, they will receive partial signatures on their blue card and must come back for final signatures when the work is complete.)
- Blue card, pencil, snack/drink and Scout workbook

### American Heritage Merit Badge Requirements

**\*\*Denotes Pework**— Scouts must do some requirements on their own. The information will be discussed during the program.

- 1) **\*\*Read the Declaration of Independence.** Pay close attention to the section that begins with "We hold these truths to be self-evident" and ends with "to provide new Guards for their future security." Rewrite that section in your own words, making it as easy to understand as possible. Then, share your writing with your merit badge counselor and discuss the importance of the Declaration to all Americans.
- 2) Do the following:
  - a) Select two individuals from American history, one a political leader (a president, senator, etc.) and the other a private citizen (a writer, religious leader, etc.). Find out about each person's accomplishments and compare the contributions each has made to America's heritage.
  - b) **\*\*With your counselor's approval, interview two people in your community of different ages and occupations.** Ask these people what America means to them, what they think is special about this country, and what American traditions they feel are important to preserve. (At Sully, a volunteer/staff member will answer these questions)
- 3) Do the following:
  - a) **\*\*Select a topic that is currently in the news.** Describe to your counselor what is happening. Explain how today's events are related to or affected by the events and values of America's past.
  - b) **\*\*Research your family's history.** Find out how various events and situations in American history affected your family. Share what you find with your counselor. Tell why your family came to America.
- 4) Do TWO of the following:
  - a) Explain what is meant by the National Register of Historic Places. Describe how a property becomes eligible for listing. Make a map of your local area, marking the points of historical interest. Tell about any National Register properties in your area. Share the map with your counselor, and describe the historical points you have indicated.
  - b) Research an event of historical importance that took place in or near your area. If possible, visit the place. Tell your counselor about the event and how it affected local history. Describe how the area looked then and what it now looks like.
- 5) **\*\*Do ONE of the following:**
  - a) Watch two motion pictures (with the approval and permission of your counselor and parent) that are set in some period of American history. Describe to your counselor how accurate each film is with regard to the historical events depicted and also with regard to the way the characters are portrayed.
  - b) Read a biography (with your counselor's approval) of someone who has made a contribution to America's heritage. Tell some things you admire about this individual and some things you do not admire. Explain why you think this person has made a positive or a negative contribution to America's heritage.
  - c) Listen to recordings of popular songs from various periods of American history. Share five of these songs with your counselor, and describe how each song reflects the way people felt about the period in which it was popular. If a recording is not available, have a copy of the lyrics available.
- 6) **\*\*Discuss with your counselor the career opportunities in American heritage.** Pick one that interests you and explain how to prepare for this career. Discuss what education and training are required for this career.